

PRESS RELEASE

Maggi Hambling to open Chris Newson show in Woodbridge

The vibrant colours and contorted faces of Suffolk artist Chris Newson will be on display in St Mary's Church Centre from 8-10 June as part of an exhibition of the artist's work, hosted by the Friends of St Mary's. Newson, who has a shop and studio in Leiston, is mentored by another Suffolk artist, the highly acclaimed Maggi Hambling, who will open the show at an invitation only private view on 8 June.

The *New Beginnings* exhibition will feature a range of work by the artist who will donate 20% of the proceeds from sales to the Friends of St Mary's and Marie Curie. Maggi Hambling, who has supported and encouraged Newson for a number of years, has likened his art to that of the artist Francis Bacon. 'There is in the same way a kind of raw urgency in his work', she says.

Chris Newson has held a total of 30 exhibitions in Suffolk and Norfolk over the last ten years. His highly-charged paintings are all produced using a pallet knife through what can be an extremely lengthy process of scraping and refashioning.

Chris Newson comments, 'I am really looking forward to showing my work in Woodbridge. As a child, I often came over from Saxmundham to go swimming in the river and visit my grandmother's family, born in Woodbridge as part of the Hawes family. It's been an exciting year for me as an artist, with my snowmen doing me proud in early March. I have also painted every day, and most of it in Woodbridge. I am so lucky to have Maggi H as mentor and friend and look forward to her opening the show. I will be there each day and will be happy to talk about my work.'



Photograph: Chris Newson with Maggi Hambling